



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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Office of the Director

June 1, 1979

RP:0011

Colonel Peter D. Stearns
Corps of Engineers
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Colonel Stearns:

Public Notice No. PODCO-0 1511-S
Proposed Heiau Restoration at Kahaluu Bay
Kahaluu, Hawaii

The Environmental Center has received the above cited public notice announcing the County of Hawaii's Planning Department request to perform work in the navigable waters at Kuemanu Heiau at Kahaluu, Kona, Hawaii.

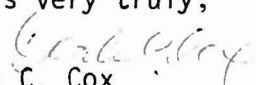
The applicant proposes to restore the Kuemanu Heiau at Kahaluu, Kona, Hawaii and in so doing proposes to dredge a brackish water pond on the grounds of the Heiau. We are concerned about the methods of dredging and what conditions will be applied to the restoration of the heiau itself. There is evidence that early heiaus were flooded at later times to make ponds and significant early artifacts have been found in these ponds. The high salt content of the brackish water and the accumulated sediment contributed to the preservation of the artifacts, hence the ponds and surrounding wetland areas may contain highly significant archaeological material.

As such material may be excavated during the dredging, a qualified archaeologist should be required to be on the site to provide direction to the dredging. At the very least, he or she should provide spot checks of the midden while the work is progressing.

Another concern centers on the proposed restoration. Again we cannot stress too heavily the importance of having an archaeologist, familiar with such restoration, work on the site during the actual reconstruction. We appreciate the wall being manually restored, but the historical value can only be maintained by the close supervision provided by a qualified archaeologist on site.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document, and your consideration of our concerns.

Yours very truly,


Doak C. Cox
Director

DCC/df

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